

# Upholding Peace, Development, Independence and Inclusiveness and Renewing the Firm Commitment to Open Regionalism

## 和平、发展、自主、包容 坚定践行开放的区域主义

Speech at the ASEAN Secretariat

——在东盟秘书处的演讲

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Your Excellency Dato Lim Jock Hoi,  
Secretary-General of ASEAN,  
Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Member States,  
Fellow Diplomats and Friends,

I am delighted to join so many friends, both old and new, at the ASEAN Secretariat in renewing our friendship and advancing cooperation through the “Jakarta Channel”. Let me begin by conveying, on behalf of the Chinese government, our warm congratulations on the 55th birthday of ASEAN and a big thank-you to all the friends for your interest in and support for China-ASEAN cooperation.

China and ASEAN are linked by mountains and waters as well as hearts and aspirations. We are always good neighbors, good friends and good partners with a shared future. I have been personally engaging with ASEAN for more than three decades. In recent years, I have visited ASEAN countries almost every year and met with ASEAN foreign ministers frequently. Through my travels and engagements, I am keenly aware of the rapid and phenomenal development of China-ASEAN relations. Over the past 10 years in particular, thanks to the strategic guidance and personal commitment of President Xi Jinping and leaders of ASEAN countries, China-ASEAN relations have entered the “fast lane” and made accelerating progress.

In retrospect, the most encouraging development was that China-ASEAN relations have stayed ahead in many areas. China

东盟秘书长拿督林玉辉阁下，  
东盟各国常驻代表，  
各位使节，各位朋友：

很高兴来到东盟秘书处，同各位新老朋友通过“雅加达渠道”共话友谊，共谋合作。首先，我谨代表中国政府，对东盟迎来55岁生日表示热烈祝贺，对关心支持中国东盟合作的朋友们表示衷心感谢！

中国与东盟山水相依、心手相连，始终是命运与共的好邻居、好朋友、好伙伴。我本人接触东盟国家事务已有30多年，这些年几乎每年都要到访东盟国家，与东盟各国外长经常见面，切身感受到中国东盟关系日新月异、飞速发展。特别是过去十年来，在习近平主席和东盟各国领导人的战略指引和亲自推动下，中国东盟关系更是进入了快车道、跑出了加速度。

回首过往，最令人鼓舞的，是中国东盟关系始终一马当先。中国率先同东盟建立战略伙伴关系，率先加入《东南亚友好合作条约》，

was the first to forge a strategic partnership with ASEAN, the first to join the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, the first to start FTA negotiation with ASEAN, the first to give unequivocal support for ASEAN centrality in regional cooperation, and the first to publicly express its willingness to sign the Protocol to the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. My ASEAN colleagues have told me that among ASEAN's dialogue partners, China has the most vibrant and productive ties with ASEAN.

The most touching event was China and ASEAN countries have been standing together in solidarity to fight COVID-19. When China was hit first by the virus, ASEAN countries immediately expressed solidarity and support and donated in cash and in kind to tide us over the trying time. When ASEAN countries were affected by the pandemic, China did its best to help ASEAN brothers fend off the virus, including sharing COVID response experience without reservation and providing timely vaccine assistance. Our cooperation against COVID-19 was a vivid testament to our deep friendship through thick and thin. Together, we have set a good example of working together to beat the virus.

The most heartening progress was the thriving economic cooperation and trade between China and ASEAN. We are each other's largest trading partner. Our trade volume has soared 100 times from 30 years before. Our two-way direct investment has exceeded US\$310 billion. The China-Laos railway is up and running. Good progress has been made in the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway, the China-Thailand railway, the China-Malaysia and China-Indonesia "twin industrial parks", and a number of other Belt and Road projects.

The most gratifying achievement was that China-ASEAN security cooperation has been making steady progress. With full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and positive progress in the consultations of a code of conduct in the South China Sea (COC), differences and disputes are being effectively managed. The situation on the sea has remained stable on the whole, and there has been no problem with the freedom of navigation and overflight. Military and security exchanges have deepened, and fruitful cooperation has been carried out in non-traditional security areas such as counter-terrorism, climate response, cybersecurity, combating transnational crime, and disaster preparedness and reduction.

In commemoration of the 30th anniversary of China-ASEAN dialogue relations, President Xi Jinping made five proposals on building our home together, and announced together with ASEAN leaders the establishment of a China-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, pointing the way forward for the growth of China-ASEAN relations. With this year being the first year for building the China-ASEAN comprehensive strategic partnership, we should get off to a good start, make solid steps, and lead the

率先同东盟商谈建立自贸区，率先明确支持东盟在区域合作中的中心地位，也是率先公开表示愿签署《东南亚无核武器区条约》议定书的国家。东盟同事告诉我，中国东盟关系在东盟同各对话伙伴关系中最具活力、最富成果。

最令人感动的，是中国和东盟国家同心抗疫，共克时艰。在中国抗疫艰难时刻，东盟国家第一时间关心慰问、捐款捐物，为中国加油鼓劲。在疫情蔓延后，中方对东盟兄弟倾力相助、毫无保留分享抗疫经验，及时提供疫苗援助，助力东盟打造防疫屏障。双方抗疫合作生动诠释了同甘共苦的深厚情谊，树立了全球抗疫合作的典范。

最令人振奋的，是中国与东盟经贸合作风生水起。如今，中国与东盟已互为最大贸易伙伴，双边贸易额较30年前翻了100倍，双方直接投资额已累计超过3100亿美元。中老铁路顺利通车，雅万高铁、中泰铁路、中马和中印尼“两国双园”等一批“一带一路”共建项目喜报频传。

最令人欣慰的，是中国与东盟安全合作稳步前行。《南海各方行为宣言》全面落实，“南海行为准则”磋商积极推进，分歧争议得到有效管控，海上局势保持总体稳定，航行与飞越自由从未发生问题。军事安全交流走向深入，反恐、应对气变、网络安全、打击跨国犯罪、防灾减灾等非传统安全领域合作成果丰硕。

在中国东盟建立对话关系30周年之际，习近平主席与东盟各国领导人共同宣布建立中国东盟全面战略伙伴关系，提出共建“五大家园”蓝图，为双方关系的未来发展明确了前进方向。今年是建设中国东盟全面战略伙伴关系的开局之年。我们要开好局、起好步，带好头，团结一心，携手前行。让中国东盟合作继续走在时代前列，让和平进步的力量越聚越强。

各位朋友，今年是东盟成立55周年。这55年，东盟经历了从无到有、从小到大、从弱到

way forward. We should get united, and join hands together to keep China-ASEAN cooperation at the forefront of the times and galvanize stronger force for peace and progress.

Friends,

This year marks the 55th anniversary of ASEAN. Over the past 55 years, ASEAN has embarked on an extraordinary development path from early inception to steady growth in size and strength. Meanwhile, the past 55 years was also a golden era of Asia's rise and take-off.

With concerted efforts of all countries in the region, Asia has become a highland of development and promising land for cooperation. Recently, the Boao Forum for Asia published the Asian Economic Outlook and Integration Progress Annual Report, which pointed out that in 2021, Asia was the first to recover amid the global pandemic, and that Asia became an important engine for global economic growth. Early this year, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, the world's largest free trade area, officially went into effect, injecting strong impetus to regional development.

With concerted efforts of all countries in the region, Asia is also becoming a fine example of global governance. Most notably, a number of key multilateral events will be held in Asia this year. China has successfully hosted the BRICS Summit, and Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand will host the leaders' meetings on East Asia cooperation, the G20 Summit, and the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting respectively. The world's attention is turning to the Asian region, global governance has ushered in the moment of Asia, and the international community needs to listen attentively to the voice of Asia.

Our region has secured such remarkable achievements in development and created exceptional miracles in growth, most fundamentally because countries in the region have adhered to open regionalism, respected and appreciated the diversities among members, and upheld and practiced the principle of voluntarism. We have advanced regional economic integration through free trade, promoted regional and sub-regional cooperation via equal consultation, and developed networks of friends worldwide with an open mindset.

Asia is standing at a new historical starting point and facing unprecedented development opportunities. But we must also be aware that the world today is not peaceful, and there are two completely different trends concerning the future of Asia. One advocates open regionalism, true multilateralism, a development-first approach and mutually beneficial cooperation; it aims to help countries in the region emerge from the pandemic and achieve all-round development as soon as possible. The other pursues a relapse into the obsolete Cold War mentality and closed group politics, and classifies countries in the region based on their values;

强，走出了一条不平凡的发展道路。同时，这55年，也是亚洲腾飞崛起的黄金年代。

在地区各国共同努力下，今天的亚洲已跃升为发展的高地、合作的热土。前不久，博鳌亚洲论坛发布的《亚洲经济前景及一体化进程》报告指出，2021年亚洲在全球疫情下率先实现复苏，成为全球经济增长的重要引擎。今年初，《区域全面经济伙伴关系协定》（RCEP）——这一世界上规模最大的自贸区正式生效实施，给地区发展注入了强劲动力。

在地区各国的共同努力下，今天的亚洲也正在成为全球治理的样板。特别是今年多边议程齐聚亚洲，中国成功举办金砖国家领导人会晤，柬埔寨、印尼、泰国将分别主办东亚合作领导人系列会议、二十国集团领导人峰会、亚太经合组织领导人非正式会议。各方目光转向“亚洲地区”，全球治理迎来“亚洲时刻”，国际社会需要倾听“亚洲声音”。

我们这个地区之所以能取得如此辉煌的发展成就，能创造世人瞩目的成长奇迹，关键在于地区各国始终坚持开放的区域主义。我们尊重并欣赏成员的多样性，坚持并践行自主自愿的原则，以自由贸易推动地区经济一体化，以平等协商推进区域和次区域合作，以开放心态构建起遍布全球的朋友圈。

当前，亚洲正站在新的历史起点上，面临着前所未有的发展机遇。同时，我们也要看到，当今世界并不太平，围绕亚洲的前途，出现了两种截然不同的走向。一种是坚持开放的区域主义，维护真正的多边主义，坚持发展优先，致力互利合作，推动地区国家尽早走出疫情实现全面发展。另一种是重拾冷战式旧思维，再搞封闭式集团政治，把地区国家按价值观分类，将区域经济阵营化，甚至将亚太安全北约化。

我们今天的选择，将决定今后的道路通向